

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6156
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015
PECUNIARY JURISDICTION
Vichare Shri Rajan Baburao

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to enhance the pecuniary jurisdiction of district courts in civil matters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has held any discussion with the lawyers in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a) & (b): Control over District and Subordinate Courts is vested in the High Court in accordance with Articles 227 and 235 of the Constitution of India. District Courts in the country have unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction except in the Districts under the jurisdiction of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras High Courts because these four High Courts have original civil pecuniary jurisdiction. State Governments are empowered to enhance pecuniary jurisdiction of district/civil courts in their States. Department of Justice provides comments whenever Bills from State Governments seeking assent of the President of India in this regard are received. Recently, two Bills from Gujarat and one from Maharashtra seeking to raise the pecuniary jurisdiction of civil courts were received. Central Government is concerned with pecuniary jurisdiction of the courts in the Union Territories and the High Court of Delhi.

(c) & (d): The Government introduced The Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2014' in the Rajya Sabha on 17th February, 2014, proposing to enhance the pecuniary jurisdiction of Delhi District Courts from existing Rs.20 lakh to Rs.2 crore.

The Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice while examining the aforesaid Bill, 2014 had discussed the matter with all stakeholders, including Bar Associations. The lawyers of District Bar Associations of Delhi also held discussions with the Central Government in December, 2014 in which it was requested that the Amendment be taken up for consideration in the Rajya Sabha early. The Bill came up for discussion on 04.03.2015, in the Rajya Sabha. However, it was deferred for consideration with another Bill on the request of some members.